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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,479	07/28/2003	Sergey Brin	0026-0149	7460
44989	7590	07/27/2007		
HARRITY SNYDER, LLP 11350 Random Hills Road SUITE 600 FAIRFAX, VA 22030			EXAMINER HARPER, LEON JONATHAN	
			ART UNIT 2166	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/27/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/629,479	Applicant(s) BRIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Leon J. Harper	Art Unit 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/21/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/21/2006 has been entered. Claims 1-7, 9, 14-20, 22-24, 28-34 have been canceled. Claim 37 has been amended. Claims 40-57 have been added. Accordingly claims 37-57 are pending in this office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 37-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 37-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 20030212666 (hereinafter Basu).

As for claim 37 Basu discloses: receiving a search query comprising a plurality of search terms from a user (See figure 3 #302 and paragraph 0032), wherein the search query includes at least one user-selected operator associated with a first one of the search terms of the search query (See paragraph 0043); broadening the first one of the search terms based on the at least one user-selected operator to produce a broadened search query; and executing a search using the broadened search query (See paragraph 0041).

As for claim 38 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein the search query further includes a user-selected delimiter associated with a second one of the search terms that indicates that the second one of the search terms should not be broadened (See paragraph 0038).

As for claim 39 Basu discloses: receiving a search query comprising a plurality of search terms; broadening one of the plurality of search terms; excluding the broadened one of the plurality of search terms from the search query; executing a search based on the search query to provide search results; and evaluating the search results relative to the excluded search term using categorical or clustered distinctions (See paragraphs 0043 and 0004).

As for claim 40 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: determining a meaning associated with the first one of the search terms (See paragraph 0004 and 0011).

As for claim 41 the rejection of claim 40 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: determining a related concept based on the meaning (See paragraph 0004 and 0011).

As for claim 42 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated, and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: modifying, replacing, supplementing, removing or restating the first one of the search terms (See paragraph 0034).

As for claim 43 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: selecting a broadening search term associated with the first one of the search terms from a set of words having a synonymous, alternate spelling, common root, or similar semantic meaning (See paragraph 0041).

As for claim 44 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated and further Basu discloses presenting at least one broadened search term associated with the first one of the search terms as at least one of a static list, a menu of selectable search terms, a set of checkboxes or a list of selectable search terms; and receiving a selection from the presented at least broadened search term from the user (See paragraph 0038).

As for claim 45 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: presenting at least one broadened search characteristic associated with the first one of the search terms as a hyperlink; and forming the broadened search query responsive to a selection of the hyperlink by the user (See paragraph 0038).

As for claim 46 the rejection of claim 37 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein the at least one user-selected operator comprises a plurality of operators, wherein the plurality of operators comprise a same operator repeated multiple times (See paragraph .0033)

As for claim 47 the rejection of claim 46 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms based on the at least one user-selected operator to produce a broadened search query comprises: broadening the first one of the search terms to an extent determined by a number of times the same operator is repeated in the at least one user-selected operator (See paragraph 0033 and 0038).

As for claim 48 Basu discloses: receiving a first search query comprising a plurality of terms (See figure 3 #302 and paragraph 0032); excluding a first term of the plurality of terms from the first search query to produce a second search query (See paragraph 0034); executing a first search based on the second search query to retrieve first search results; mapping the first search results into related terms that are associated with the first term; and executing a second search based on a third search query that includes the plurality of terms and the related terms to retrieve second search results (See paragraphs 0034-0038) .

As for claim 49 Basu discloses: receiving a search query comprising a plurality of search terms from a user, wherein the search query includes a user-assigned strength associated with a first one of the search terms of the search query (See paragraph 0038); broadening the first one of the search terms to an extent determined by the user-

assigned strength to produce a broadened search query; and executing a search based on the broadened search query (See paragraph 0038).

As for claim 50 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated, and further Basu discloses: wherein the user-assigned strength includes multiple operators and wherein a number of the multiple operators determine the extent to which the first one of the search terms is broadened (See paragraph 0038 and .0041)

As for claim 51 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein the search query further includes a user-selected delimiter associated with a second one of the search terms that indicates that the second one of the search terms should not be broadened (See paragraph 0038).

As for claim 52 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: determining a meaning associated with the first one of the search terms (See paragraph 0004 and 0011).

As for claim 53 the rejection of claim 52 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: determining a related concept based on the meaning (See paragraph 0004 and 0011).

As for claim 54 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: modifying, replacing, supplementing, removing or restating the first one of the search terms (See paragraph 0034).

As for claim 55 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: selecting a broadening search term associated with the first one of the search terms from a set of words having a synonymous, alternate spelling, common root, or similar semantic meaning (See paragraph 0041).

As for claim 56 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: presenting at least one broadened search term associated with the first one of the search terms as at least one of a static list, a menu of selectable search terms, a set of checkboxes or a list of selectable search terms; and receiving a selection from the presented at least broadened search term from the user (See paragraph 0038)..

As for claim 57 the rejection of claim 49 is incorporated and further Basu discloses: wherein broadening the first one of the search terms comprises: presenting at least one broadened search characteristic associated with the first one of the search terms as a hyperlink; and forming the broadened search query responsive to a selection of the hyperlink by the user (See paragraph 0038).

Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon J. Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 4:00Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LJH
Leon J. Harper
July 19, 2007


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER